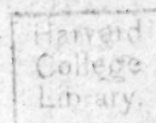


Dreadful Occurrence!

MURDER AND SUICIDE *AT WIGTON.*

136.25-



Oct. 31, 1906

Minot fund

A most dreadful and distressing occurrence took place at Wigton, in Cumberland, on Sunday the 20th of April.—Ann Graham, the wife of Wm Graham, blacksmith, murdered two of her children by strangulation, left another for dead, and afterwards cut her own throat!!

On Sunday afternoon (labouring under strong mental derangement) the wretched woman dressed herself and took her children for a walk, a circumstance, with her, very unusual on such a day. She went with them to a small stream of water, and looking into it, remarked that 'it was not deep enough, and they would come another time.' On Sunday morning, she strongly persuaded her husband to go to church, and when she laid out his Sunday clothes, she gave him a black silk handkerchief, instead of a white one. He enquired the reason, and asked for a white one. His wife immediately said to him in a singular tone—'What! would you not wear it if we all lay dead?' Mr. Graham took no particular notice of this wildness, and went to church. As soon as he was gone, she called the children into the house and locked the door. After washing them, she gave the oldest (a boy about nine years of age) an infant to hold, which was sucking at the breast, and then took one of the other children into an adjoining room, put it to death by strangling it with her hands, and then laid it into a bed. She returned for another which she strangled in the same manner. When she came for the third, the boy, before-mentioned, enquired what she was doing, and observed, he thought she was killing the children. She replied, that she would let him soon see what she was doing with them, and went into the room with the third, which she also strangled. The boy, being alarmed, laid the infant on the floor, and got into the black-smith's shop by means of a door which communicates with the dwelling-house, where he concealed himself under the large bellows. His mother followed him into the shop, and searched but could not find him. After she returned into the dwelling-house, the boy escaped from the shop by drawing the bolts which secured the great door. He met his father as he was returning from church, and told him the dreadful tale; assistance was immediately procured, and entering the house, the unhappy woman was found with her throat dreadfully cut, without any signs of life—the infant was lying on the floor unhurt—and the other three children were found in bed; two of them quite dead; the other shewed symptoms of life, and by proper care has been much recovered, but still remains in a very doubtful state. What a scene for the unfortunate husband and father! No cause but insanity can be assigned for the commission of such a dreadful and unnatural crime. Mr. Graham has always proved himself a kind affectionate husband. His wife was naturally of a gloomy disposition, and, latterly, she had formed an idea that her children would come to poverty. The Coroner's jury returned a verdict of *insanity*.

Angus, Printer.